

AWAY WIN FILLIP FOR WANDERERS

Defence Earns The Points

FOR the first time since early October, Wycombe Wanderers were able to return home from an Isthmian League game with two points on Saturday, when they defeated bottom-of-the-table Maidstone United 2-1 at Maidstone.

But the points were really earned by the defence, and not the attack, writes "Nova."

The attack had many opportunities carved out for them by the unending work of Charlie Gale and Dave Thomas, but again there was lack of punch and precision in finishing.

On a bone hard pitch Wycombe were able to play the short passing game that had served them well in the middle of this season. But despite the easy way the attacks built up, and as well as Peter James and Tony Horseman played, final thrust was weak and ineffectual. And veteran Danny Wiltshire, in the Maidstone goal, looked none too safe.

SAME PROBLEMS

For the Wanderers the same glaring problems are unearthed week after week, and this game was no exception—with Len Worley trying to beat the entire defence one minute and releasing the ball much too soon the next, George Pullin slow and cumbersome but able occasionally to judge a pass to perfection, and Ivor Ashby strong and full of heart but definitely not an inside forward.

The only two players in the forward line who came out with much credit were Tony Horseman and Peter James.

Horseman, apart from scoring a goal, often looked dangerous

when working as an inside-forward, but on the wing he was largely out of the game.

James worked well, but of all the centre-forwards in the whole of the Isthmian League he must surely be the one who has the most difficult chances. Rarely is he given a good pass in front of goal. But when he is, his 24 goals this season are proof that he can take them.

The defence had few worrying moments. After last week's delicate display, John Fisher did not seem the same player. His clearances were long and wild.

WYCOMBE LEAD

After a goalless first half, in which Worley and Thomas both made goalworthy chances, the second half opened well for the Wanderers.

Within two minutes they were ahead. Gale sent through a long pass for James to hit the ball past Wiltshire.

But Maidstone were soon hitting back strongly. They hit the top of the Wycombe bar before left-winger Jenman smashed home a loose ball inside the penalty area to equalise.

Within minutes, however, Wycombe regained the lead. Fisher moved up for a Worley corner and headed it on to James, who in turn neatly headed it on for Horseman to tap home.

Wycombe should have made it three seconds later, when James squared the ball back for Ashby, whose header hit the post.

Maidstone never really challenged the lead and the game ended with Wycombe attacking as strongly as ever.